

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 EB-08 ACDA-12 /113 W
-----049379 150028Z /13

R 131439Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3605
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PO, IS, SP
SUBJ: ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH IBERIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: JERUSALEM IS NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING
PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL OR FOR
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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. GESTURES ON THE PART
OF THESE NATIONS TOWARDS NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL ARE
SEEN BY THE GOI AS TACTICAL MANOUVERS DESIGNED TO WARN
THE ARABS AGAINST INTERFERENCE IN THE AZORES THE CANARIES
AND MADEIRA. END SUMMARY

2. PORTUGAL - NO CHANGE. JERUSALEM DOES NOT FORESEE

ANY CHANGE IN RELATIONS WITH LISBON. ISRAEL REMAINS SATISFIED WITH THE ACQUISITION OF NORMAL RELATIONS, WHICH REPRESENTS ONE OF THREE RECOGNITION VICTORIES ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT SINCE 1973, AND WILL NOT NOW PRESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL.

3. ISRAEL AND SPAIN. MADRID IS SEEN AS BEING HELD BACK FROM RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL BY ITS EXTENSIVE INTERESTS IN NORTH AFRICA; ITS NEED FOR ARAB CAPITAL TO EXPAND ITS SHIPBUILDING, ARMS, STEEL, AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES; AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON ARAB RATHER THAN EUROPEAN MARKETS TO ABSORB SPANISH PRODUCTS. JERUSALEM BELIEVES, NONETHELESS, THAT PROSPECTS FOR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN HAVE IMPROVED SOMEWHAT BY THE ACCESSION OF JUAN CARLOS. IT IS THOUGHT HERE THAT THE KING AND HIS TOP ADVISERS ARE PRO-ISRAEL AND WOULD LIKE TO USE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL TO HELP EASE PART OF THE FRANCO PAST. THE PROBLEM THUS, IN ISRAELI VIEW, INVOLVES TIMING RATHER THAN PRINCIPLE. THE GOI LISTS THE FOLLOWING THREE FACTS WHICH COULD CHANGE THE BALANCE IN FAVOR OF RECOGNITION:

- A) INCREASED ARAB MEDDLING IN THE CANARIES;
- B) PROGRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE FRONT; OR
- C) SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE EC WHICH WOULD PROVIDE PARTIAL SHIELD FROM THE ARABS BEHIND WHICH SPAIN COULD HIDE.

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4. ALTHOUGH ISRAEL ATTACHES LITTLE HOPE THAT IBERIA WILL ENDANGER ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THUS POLITICAL STABILITY BY JEOPARDIZING ITS ACCESS TO ARAB OIL AND MARKETS, THE GOI KEEPS ITS EARS ATTUNED TO THE REGION. IT IS ONE OF THE FEW AREAS NOT FUNDAMENTAL TO ISRAEL WHERE IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS IS AT LEAST A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV07499
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0340
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780663/aaaaccmm.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5b4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2366743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH IBERIA
TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PO, IS, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5b4bc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014